

Message Text

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S/IL FOR DALE GOOD

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PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ, AVERY, QUACKENBUSH AND
LINSENMAYER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLAB, ILO

SUBJ: ILO: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON MEETING OF GOVERNMENT
GROUP ON STRUCTURE

REF: GENEVA 9690

1. FOLLOWING IN PARA TWO BELOW IS TEXT OF CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT ADOPTED BY GOVERNMENT GROUP OF WORKING PARTY ON
STRUCTURE ON DECEMBER 3, 1976. COPIES OF REPORT, INCLUDING
APPENDICES WHICH ARE NOT TRANSMITTED BELOW, HAVE BEEN
POUCHED TO IO (PALMER) AND DEPARTMENT LABOR (QUACKENBUSH).

2. BEGIN TEXT:

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS SUBMITTED BY THE CHAIRMAN AND
ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY
ON STRUCTURE

1. THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUC-
TURE MET IN GENEVA ON 22 NOVEMBER 1976 UNDER THE CHAIR-
MANSHIP OF AMBASSADOR AZIMI (IRAN). THE LIST OF
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PARTICIPANTS AT THE MEETING IS GIVEN IN APPENDIX I. IN

ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATE GIVEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AT ITS 61ST SESSION, JUNE 1976 (SEE PROVISIONAL RECORD NO. 27), THEY EXAMINED THE MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED BY THE ASIAN GOVERNMENT GROUP (ATTACHED AS APPENDIX II).

2. THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE MAIN QUESTIONS WERE THOSE POSED BY ARTICLES 7 AND 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ILO AND DECIDED TO BEGIN BY DEALING WITH THOSE TWO ARTICLES. THEY ALSO TOOK THE VIEW THAT IN THE EVENT OF IT PROVING POSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION AS REGARDS THE NON-ELECTIVE SEATS ON THE GOVERNING BODY, THE PROBLEM OF ARTICLE 36 INVOLVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION COULD BE EASILY SETTLED. THEY THEREFORE BEGAN THEIR DISCUSSIONS BY EXAMINING ARTICLE 7.

3. WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATING DISCUSSIONS AND ACCELERATING THE PROCEEDINGS, THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS SET UP A RESTRICTED GROUP IN WHICH THOSE MEMBERS WHO WISHED COULD PARTICIPATE. IN THE COURSE OF THE WORK OF THIS GROUP, THOSE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 AND THE MEMBERS FROM INDUSTRIALISED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH THE OBJECT OF BRINGING THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS CLOSER. ALONGSIDE THESE MEETINGS MANY UNOFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS TOOK PLACE AMONG MEMBERS BELONGING TO THE SAME REGION (ASIA, AMERICA, LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) WITH THE OBJECT OF EXAMINING THE PROPOSALS OF THE COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77. CONTACTS ALSO TOOK PLACE BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WITH A VIEW TO FURTHERING THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. THE RESTRICTED GROUP HELD NUMEROUS MEETINGS BETWEEN 23 NOVEMBER AND 2 DECEMBER. AT ITS FIRST MEETING THE MEMBERS FROM INDUSTRIALISED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES INVITED THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL IN WRITING FOR EXAMINATION BY THE RESTRICTED GROUP.

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5. THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 SUBSEQUENTLY HELD THREE MEETINGS FOLLOWING WHICH THEY SUBMITTED ON 25 NOVEMBER A NEW PROPOSAL IN WRITING SEEKING TO RECONCILE, ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSAL OF THE ASIAN GOVERNMENT GROUP, THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ELIMINATION OF THE NON-ELECTIVE SEATS ON THE GOVERNING BODY WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF CONTINUITY (SEE APPENDIX III).

6. THE MEMBERS FROM INDUSTRIALISED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES, WHILE STATING THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE EFFORTS EXPENDED BY THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 IN ORDER TO PRESENT A NEW PROPOSAL, CONSIDERED THAT THEY REQUIRED MORE TIME TO CONSIDER THE MATTER.

7. AT THE MEETING OF THE RESTRICTED GROUP ON 29 NOVEMBER, THE MEMBERS FROM THE INDUSTRIALISED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES PUT SEVERAL QUESTIONS TO THE MEMBERS BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 CONCERNING THEIR PROPOSAL; AFTER RECEIVING REPLIES TO EACH OF THEIR QUESTIONS, THEY REQUESTED FURTHER TIME FOR REFLECTION TO EXAMINE THE ANSWERS AMONG THEMSELVES AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FROM THEIR SIDE.

8. AT THE RESTRICTED GROUP'S MEETING ON 2 DECEMBER, THE MEMBERS FROM INDUSTRIALISED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES STATED THAT SOME OF THEM WERE AS YET UNABLE TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL BY THE GROUP OF 77 AND THAT AS A WHOLE THEY WERE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO PRESENT PROPOSALS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY WISHED TO CONTINUE STUDYING THE QUESTION UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 1977. THE MEMBERS FROM SOCIALIST COUNTRIES CONSIDERED THAT THE NEW PROPOSAL OF THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 CONSTITUTED A BASIS FOR EXAMINING ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION. THEY HOWEVER EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE COMPOSITION OF THE GOVERNING BODY AS A WHOLE SHOULD ALSO BE EXAMINED. THE MEMBERS FROM INDUSTRIALISED MARKET-ECONOMY COUNTRIES AND THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 CONSIDERED IT DESIRABLE THAT THE EXAMINATION OF THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO THE MARCH 1977 SESSION OF THE TRIPARTITE WORKING PARTY. THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES
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ALSO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF REGIONALISATION AND CONSIDERED THAT IT SHOULD BE THE OBJECT OF CLOSER STUDY.

9. IN THE LIGHT OF THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ABSENCE OF CONSTRAINT IN THE ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE DISCUSSIONS, THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS CONSIDERED IT DESIRABLE, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE CONFERRED ON THE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE BY THE CONFERENCE, TO CONTINUE ITS WORK FROM 7-11 FEBRUARY 1977 WITH THE OBJECT OF ARRIVING AT AN AGREEMENT ON ARTICLE 7 OF THE CONSTITUTION, TAKING AS A STARTING POINT THE PROPOSAL OF THE ASIAN GOVERNMENT GROUP AND THE NEW PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77 OR OTHER FORMULAE. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT A REPORT ON THE ENTIRE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

DURING BOTH PARTS OF ITS SESSION WOULD BE DRAWN UP AT THE
END OF THE FEBRUARY 1977 SESSION FOR SUBMISSION TO THE
TRIPARTITE WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE WHICH IS TO BE HELD
FROM 7-11 MARCH 1977 FOLLOWING THE 202ND SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING BODY.

10. THE MEMBERS FROM COUNTRIES BELONGING TO THE GROUP OF 77,
BEARING IN MIND THAT THE RESULTS ACHIEVED DURING THE DIS-
CUSSIONS OF QUESTIONS OF STRUCTURE IN RECENT YEARS, AND UP
TILL NOW, WERE DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE TIME AND MONEY
EXPENDED, CONSIDERED THAT IF NEXT FEBRUARY IT DID NOT
PROVE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A COMPROMISE CONCERNING
ARTICLES 7 AND 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION, THEY SHOULD SEEK
OTHER MEANS TO SECURE THE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION.

END TEXT.CATTO

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